

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 19745 172056Z
ACTION EUR-12

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 19745

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, UR, US
SUBJECT: PRAVDA COMMENTARY ON ADMINISTRATION'S
HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. PRAVDA'S WASHINGTON
CORRESPONDENT VASIL'YEV USES AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S
AUGUST 9 NEW YORK SPEECH REFERRING TO OUR "PARTIC-
ULARLY UNFORTUNATE" FAILURE TO RATIFY THE GENOCIDE
CONVENTION AS THE TAKING-OFF POINT FOR AN AGGRESSIVE
ATTACK ON THE ADMINISTRATION'S HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY.
WRITING IN AN AUGUST 17 COLUMN ENTITLED "PHARISAISM,"
VASIL'YEV ASSERTS THAT THE USG HAS ONLY RATIFIED
TEN OF FORTY AGREEMENTS PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS,
AND SAYS THIS IS BECAUSE U.S. AUTHORITIES DO NOT
WANT TO BE CALLED TO ACCOUNT BY WORLD PUBLIC
OPINION AND APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL ORGANS FOR
THE "THOUSANDS OF FIGHTERS FOR CIVIL RIGHTS IN
PRISON ABOUT WHICH YOUNG SPOKE, FOR THE SURVEILLANCE
AND PROVOCATIONS BY SECRET POLICE (OKHRANKA), FOR
RACIAL DISCRIMINATION EVERYWHERE, FOR GENOCIDE
TOWARDS INDIANS, FOR MILLIONS OF UNEMPLOYED."

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 19745 172056Z

2. THE PRAVDA COMMENTATOR DECLARES THAT AMERICANS
ARE BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER, THAT THE
HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY PROCLAIMED BY THE ADMINISTRATION
IS INTENDED EXCLUSIVELY "FOR EXPORT" AND HAS NO
INFLUENCE IN THE U.S. ITSELF. TO THE SURPRISE
OF THE ADMINISTRATION, THOUSANDS OF AMERICANS -

"INCENSED BY THE HYPOCRISY OF THE AUTHORITIES" -
ARE NOW CALLING FOR AN END TO VIOLENCE, RACISM
AND LAWLESSNESS. ACCORDING TO VASIL'YEV, SUCH
AMERICANS POINT OUT THERE IS NO MORAL BASIS
WHATSOEVER FOR U.S. STATEMENTS IN THE "DEFENSE OF
HUMAN RIGHTS" IN OTHER COUNTRIES. END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. COMMENT: AS OUR
RECENT REPORTING HAS INDICATED, THE SOVIET PROPAGANDA
MACHINE IS PRESENTLY GEARED TO SMEAR THE U.S.
POSITION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AT THE SLIGHTEST OPPORTUNITY.
VASIL'YEV'S PIECE INDICATES THAT SELF-CRITICISM BY
PROMINENT U.S. FIGURES IS AN IRRESISTABLE TARGET
FOR SOVIET PROPAGANDISTS, EVEN WHEN IT IS PART OF
A SPEECH CRITICAL OF SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY AND
POLITICAL REPRESSION IN EASTERN EUROPE. TOON

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